

PRESIDENT: Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. A while ago we heard Senator DeCamp talk also about the poor and the black people and I certainly am concerned about systems of taxation as well as Senator DeCamp is. I think this is an important bill for everyone in the state especially those people who cannot afford a \$30,000 vehicle to drive to the nice camps that might be located in other states. I think it might be a good bill for those poor elements of our society who can't afford to travel to New York and to California where they have nice parks. I think perhaps that we would do a service to these people by developing a state parks system which would encourage them to go out and utilize it. Certainly the system that we have in Nebraska at this time does not do that due to the poor condition it's in. As a means of funding and the philosophy of funding certainly the use tax, LB 81, is much more appealing. But it doesn't generate the kind of revenue necessary for this...what I think is going to be a temporary tax to get us started in the improvement programs of the state parks system. While 81 may later take care of the maintenance of these facilities, I think we need LB 109 as it is, as it has been discussed now to build the facilities and get on with improving the parks system in the State of Nebraska.

PRESIDENT: Senator Duis. (No response). Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. First of all, I don't know whether we're talking on 81 or 109 but I'm a little nervous when Senator DeCamp and Senator Bereuter agree they have a meritorious amendment for my bill and so I have to rise. I'd like to ask Senator Bereuter a question if he would yield.

PRESIDENT: He's at committee hearing...oh, here he is.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator Bereuter, you mentioned the use of the revenue sharing funds. Can you tell me how those funds are presently being earmarked for use and how many of those funds would actually be available for use in this area?

SENATOR BEREUTER: Senator, it's my understanding that we have used all or almost all of the revenue sharing money we received in the past for capital construction except for a small amount that we sent to the Department of Revenue during the special session of '75 because of the cash flow problem. Presently, the Revenue Sharing Act has just been reapproved for a given period of years. It's four years or three years; I've forgotten which. There are some expected uses for the revenue sharing money but we and the Appropriations Committee have not expended all of the allocated revenue sharing money for the next three years. So there is sufficient unallocated money for the bill. However, I'm sure the Governor may have some other plans for it.

SENATOR SCHMIT: That was going to be my next question. Do you think there are plans in the mind of the Governor or the Legislators relative to utilization of that fund in another manner at this time?